

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 8 and ending on page 8, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the depicted embodiment, the forks 11 are L-shaped and operatively attached to each other via a middle section 14. The forks 11 are preferably spaced thirteen and one-eighth (13 $\frac{1}{8}$ th) inches apart from each other and have a width from outer edge to outer edge of twenty-six (26) inches. In the fork and jaw grapple's 10 resting position as shown in Figs. 1, 5 and 6, the forks 11 extend parallel with a horizontal plane for approximately seventeen and one-half (17 $\frac{1}{2}$) inches from back surfaces 16 of upward extending members 15 of the forks 11. Thereafter, the forks 11 have curvatures 17 which are used for prying and getting under heavy objects. The curvatures 17 extend approximately eighteen and one-half (18 $\frac{1}{2}$) inches. There is a twenty-two (22°) degree angle between a tapered portion 21 of the forks 11 and horizontal plane or bottom surfaces 19 of the forks 11. The back surfaces 16 of the upward extending members 15 are eighty-three (83°) degrees from the bottom surfaces 19 of the forks 11. The forks 11 are thirty-six (36) inches in length from the back surfaces 16 of the upward extending members 15 to ends of the forks 11. Each of the upward extending members 15 have at least one stop 18 for precluding upward movement of objects being carried or moved by the fork and jaw grapple 10. The stops 18 are approximately six and three-fourths (6 $\frac{3}{4}$ th) inches from top surfaces 20 of the forks 11. The curvatures 17 and shape of the forks 11 magnify the “breakout” or upward force that can be exerted by the fork and jaw grapple 10. This is significant because a skid steer loader is limited

in the amount of upward force it can apply on an object. The width of the fork and jaw grapple 10 is narrower than a full-length or width bucket attachment commonly used on a skid steer loader so that the forks 11 are within the width of concrete slabs to facilitate the prying up and carrying of concrete slabs. The narrowness of the fork and jaw grapple 10 is important, and significant and advantageous over a full-length or width bucket attachment because it concentrates the limited effort of the skid steer loader in front of and close to the center line of the machine. Moreover, the narrower width allows the skid steer loader to maneuver in tight spots. For example, the skid steer loader with the fork and jaw grapple 10 attached thereto enables the operator to steer or track straight in and out in-line with a slab of concrete for a sidewalk. This allows efficient removal of concrete slabs with minimal disruption to the surroundings. In contrast, when a full-length or width bucket is used to removed a slab of concrete from a sidewalk, the corner of a bucket would be used to pry up the slab which commonly leads to equipment failure and defect and significant disruption of the surrounding soil and concrete. As examples, the fork and jaw grapple 10 may have a width less than the width of a machine frame, a width less than four feet, or a width less than three feet. It should be noted that the previously described dimensions of the fork and jaw grapple 10 are beneficial for maneuvering, prying up and carrying concrete slabs and other materials; however, the dimensions may be varied.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 9 and ending on page 9, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The cylinder 25 has a three (3) inch bore diameter and twelve (12) inch stroke length. The cylinder 25 is housed in a shroud 38 to protect it from damage during use and inclement weather. The cylinder 25 has a first end 27 operatively connected to a first horizontal pin 26, and

a second end 29 operatively connected to a second horizontal pin 28. The first horizontal pin 26 is rotatably mounted to a back mounting bracket 30, and the second horizontal pin 28 is rotatably mounted to a front mounting bracket 31. The ~~back front~~ mounting bracket 30 31 is operatively mounted to a front, top end 32 of the jaw 12. The ~~front back~~ mounting bracket 31 30 is operatively attached to the middle section 14 at a top portion 33. The pivot point 24 of the jaw 12 is offset from the first horizontal pin 26 of the cylinder 25 in the vertical and horizontal axis, and the second horizontal pin 28 is offset from the pivot point 24 and the first horizontal pin 26 in the vertical and horizontal axis such that when the cylinder extends and retracts, the jaw 12 rotates about the first horizontal pin 26 as indicated by the phantom lines in Fig. 1. Specifically, as ~~a piston 39~~ the second end 29 of the cylinder 25 extends, the jaw 12 moves or pivots about the pivot point 24 in the downward direction towards the forks 11, and as the ~~piston 39~~ second end 29 of the cylinder 25 retracts, the jaw 12 moves or pivots about the pivot point 24 in the upward direction away from the forks 11.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 5 and ending on page 11, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In one such use, the fork and jaw grapple 10 can be used to pry concrete slabs upward away from the ground without removing a significant amount of sod. When above the concrete slab to be removed, the fork and jaw grapple 10 is rotated ninety (90°) degrees counterclockwise or downward so that a mouth 40 of the fork and jaw grapple 10 is pointing downward toward the concrete slab. Thereafter, the forks 11 of the fork and jaw grapple 10 wedge between concrete slabs and are then the fork and jaw grapple 10 is rotated ninety (90°) clockwise or upward and slid under the concrete slab to pry it from the ground. The angle at the tips 13 of the forks 11 and the forces being applied by the skid steer loader and the fork and jaw grapple 10 facilitate the

“breakout” or prying away of the concrete slab from the ground. The fork and grapple 10 is able to remove concrete slabs without removing a significant amount of sod, which is in contrast to the bucket attachment which removes a large amount of sod when performing the same operation. The fork and jaw grapple 10 is then used to fully slip the forks 11 under the concrete slab at which time the ~~piston~~ 39 second end 29 of the cylinder 25 is extended causing the jaw 12 to move downward into engagement and to hold or grab the concrete slab. The stops 18 prevent the concrete slab from moving upward past the stops 18. The fork and jaw grapple 10 is then used to pick-up and transport the concrete slab to a dump truck, other vehicle or location for place down into the back of the dump truck, other vehicle or location as opposed to dumping the concrete slab into the back of the dump truck, other vehicle or location. When above the back of the dump truck, other vehicle or location, the fork and jaw grapple 10 is rotated ninety (90°) degrees counterclockwise or downward so that the mouth 40 of the fork and jaw grapple 10 holding or grasping the concrete slab is pointing downward. Thereafter, the fork and jaw grapple 10 places the concrete slab in contact with the back of the dump truck, other vehicle or location, and the ~~piston~~ 39 second end 29 of the cylinder 25 retracts thereby opening the jaw 12 to release the concrete slab. Because the concrete slab is not dumped or dropped, the dump truck or other vehicle is not damaged.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 7 and ending on page 11, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In other uses, the fork and jaw grapple 10 is slid under or into materials, such as telephone poles, pipes, posts, railroad ties, tires, scrap piles or other materials or objects. The angle at the tips 13 of the forks 11 and the forces being applied by the skid steer loader and the fork and jaw grapple 10 facilitate the insertion under or into the materials. After insertion under

or into these materials, the ~~piston 39~~ second end 29 of the cylinder 25 is extended thereby moving the jaw 12 downward into engagement and to hold the materials during pick-up, transport or placement down. The fork and jaw grapple 10 is then used to pick-up and transport the materials to a dump truck, other vehicle or location for placing down, as opposed to dumping the materials. When above the back of the dump truck, other vehicle or location, the fork and jaw grapple 10 is rotated ninety (90°) degrees counterclockwise or downward so that the mouth 40 of the fork and jaw grapple 10 holding or grasping the materials is pointing downward. Thereafter, the fork and jaw grapple 10 places the materials in contact with the back of the dump truck, other vehicle or location, and the ~~piston 39~~ second end 29 of the cylinder 25 retracts thereby opening the jaw 12 to release the materials. Because the materials are not dumped or dropped, the materials are not damaged during handling.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 22 and ending on page 12, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In other uses, the fork and jaw grapple 10 slides under, grabs or holds (as previously explained) and lifts rocks, barrels, tires and other similar objects. Thereafter, the fork and jaw grapple 10 places the object in contact with the back of the dump truck, or other location, and the ~~piston 39~~ second end 29 of the cylinder 25 retracts thereby opening the jaw 12 to release the object.